

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 006002

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL  
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
-----

#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Pentagon approval required for \$8.5 billion - Sabah  
Iraq condition on \$8.5 billion - Hurriyet  
Gul: Troop decision won't be delayed until late October -  
Hurriyet  
Cofer Black due in Ankara for talks on PKK - Milliyet  
Britain wants Turkish troops for Iraq - Turkiye

##### OPINION MAKERS

Troop bargaining in New York - Radikal  
UN Baghdad building a target once again - Cumhuriyet  
New suicide attack on UN building in Baghdad - Radikal  
Barzani wants the Arabs out - Radikal  
Saddam's supporters rally in Fallujah - Yeni Safak  
9/11 accelerated change in Saudi Arabia - Zaman  
IMF praises Turkish economy - Yeni Safak  
Iraq to privatize all sectors except oil - Zaman  
Peres: Arafat deserves Nobel peace prize - Zaman

#### BRIEFING

Turkish troops for Iraq: Turkish dailies expect the government to pass a motion by mid-October authorizing the deployment of Turkish troops in Iraq. Foreign Minister Gul said that Turkey can not afford to stay out of Iraq while countries like Iran and Israel are attempting to exert influence in the region. A UN mandate might help ease Ankara's concerns, Gul said, but Turkey's decision does not solely depend on a new UN resolution. Responding to a question, Gul said that the U.S. had offered a loan to cover deployment expenses for Turkish troops. Gul criticized TUSIAD chairman Tuncay Ozilhan's statement over the weekend in which he opposed a Turkish contribution to the Iraqi stabilization mission. Gul accused 'foreign powers' of being behind the TUSIAD statement.

Gul meets Iraqi interim government officials: Papers write that Iraqi officials are changing their negative attitude regarding a possible Turkish military presence in Iraq. Foreign Minister Gul met in New York Monday with Ahmad Chalabi, head of the Iraqi interim governing council, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hosyar Zebari. Zebari told Gul that his reported objections to Turkish peacekeepers in Iraq were misinterpreted. "Zaman" views Zebari's remarks as an apology to Turkey. "Radikal" believes that Gul has bargained with Iraqi officials over sending troops to Iraq.

Turkish liaison team in Baghdad: A liaison team of four TGS officers arrived in Baghdad on Monday. The team will be responsible for coordination between Turkish and U.S. forces in the north of Iraq. The Turkish officers will work at the headquarters of General Ricardo Sanchez in Baghdad.

Cofer Black due in Turkey: State Department counter-terrorism coordinator Cofer Black will visit Turkey during the first week of October, "Milliyet" reports. Black will discuss with Turkish officials the elimination of the terror threat posed by the PKK/KADEK in Northern Iraq.  
U.S., Turkey \$8.5 billion loan agreement: State Minister

Ali Babacan and U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow signed an \$8.5 billion loan accord aimed at relieving the negative effects of the Iraq war on Turkey's economy. Babacan said the agreement would make a positive contribution to Turkey's economic reform program. Snow stressed at the signing ceremony in Dubai on Monday that the loan package and Turkey's troop deployment in Iraq are two separate issues. "Sabah" notes that the Pentagon will review the release of each loan disbursement. The approval of the IMF, U.S. Treasury, and the State Department will also be required.

Iran says Erdogan might visit Tehran: In a statement to the official Iranian news agency IRNA, Iran's Ambassador to Ankara Firuz Devletabadi said that Prime Minister Erdogan would likely visit Tehran within the next month.

EDITORIAL OPINION: President Bush at the UNGA

"The UN and Legitimacy"  
Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (9/23): "The upcoming UN meeting aims to achieve legitimacy on the Iraq issue and to increase the role of the UN. Yet at the same time, the UN organization is questioning its very existence. . The recent Iraq crisis, as Secretary General Annan put it, has proven the need for radical reforms within the UN. Annan suggests a reorganization of the UNSC as a first step in this reform process. . The US ignored the UN and acted unilaterally in Iraq. However, it is now the United States that seeks support from the UN. The truth is that the UN is still in need of extensive reform. This does not mean that after the reforms the UN will be able to assume the role of a global government authority. The UN is a union of nations, and each nation has its own interest. UN resolutions are produced based on these interests rather than on supranational values. The implementation of UN resolutions is in fact another subject for discussion. Under the circumstances, it is debatable whether the UN is the primary source of legitimacy in resolving international disputes."

"Bush trembles"  
Ozgen Acar argued in the social democrat-intellectual Cumhuriyet (9/23): "President Bush is going to speak at the UN General Assembly and is expected to ask for the international community's support in Iraq. This is interesting, as Bush has so far ignored the UN role. US policies in Iraq have failed. Even Secretary Powell has admitted that the US underestimated the problems in Iraq. . September 11 and its aftermath, including the situation in Iraq, highlighted the weakness of American intelligence. President Bush was incapable of finding either WMD or Saddam Hussein. According to various opinion polls in the US, Bush is rapidly losing his popular support. . It seems that the Democrats have a fairly strong candidate in the upcoming election. Wesley Clark, despite his military background, describes the Iraq war as a mistake. . The US has become a very interesting place, where military figures are the doves and civilians are the hawks."

EDELMAN